

**Remarks/Arguments**

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

**Claim Status**

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 9 and 15 are amended.

**Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102(e)**

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Langford (US 6,266,420). In response, claims 1, 9 and 15 are amended to clearly distinguish over Langford.

Independent claim 1 is amended to recite:

...(b) encrypting the session key by utilizing each of common keys which have been determined to the respective destinations, wherein each common key is generated by utilizing a public key and a secret key...

Claims 9 and 15 are amended in similar fashion. As described at paragraph [0054] of applicant's specification, the common key is generated by utilizing the public key generated based on the email address and the secret key PRK1 stored in the hard disk 4 (S107).

Langford does not disclose or suggest encrypting a session key with a common key generated by utilizing a public key and a secret key. At column 3, lines 20-22, Langford discloses use of a recipient list 14 to obtain a group public encryption key, which is used to create a wrapped session key, however, Langford does not disclose or suggest that this recipient list 14 is used in conjunction with a secret key to generate a common key for encrypting a session key.

Since Langford does not disclose each and every feature of claims 1, 9 and 15, as amended, or claims 2-8, 10-14 and 16-20 dependent thereon, it cannot anticipate those claims. The rejections under 35 USC 102(e) should be withdrawn.

**Conclusion**

This application is now believed to be in form for allowance. The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of

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this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,  
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: December 19, 2005

By:

  
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